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1862

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MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

M'LEAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT TOWANDA, McLEAN COUNTY, ILL.,

SEPTEMBER 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1862.

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BLOOMINGTON, ILL.:

PRINTED AT THE DAILY PANTAGRAPH BOOK, JOB AND NEWSPAPER OFFICE.

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MINUTES.

(Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS ; Licentiates in *Italics;* Laymen in Roman.)

TOWANDA, Sept. 12, 1862.

1. Association convened according to adjournment, at 11 A. M.

2. Prayer, by Bro. S. M. OSGOOD.

3. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Bro. H. B. JOHNSON, from Heb. 12 : 28 ;" Wherefore we receiving a kingdom," &c.

4. Brn. J. CAIRNS, J. N. King, and W. L. Ballard were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises.

5. Adjourned until 2 P. M. Prayer by Bro. G. WILSON.

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2 o'clock, P. M.

6. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. A. M. BACON.

7. The Annual Letters from the churches were read, and their messengers and statistics reported. (See page 7.)

8. The Association proceeded to the election of officers. J. CAIRNS was elected Moderator, O. M. Colman Clerk, Wm. G. Thompson Treasurer.

9. The Rules of the Association were read by the Moderator.

10. The invitation to visiting brethren to take part in the deliberations of the Association, was accepted by Br. S. M. OSGOOD, Agent of the American Baptist Missionary Union.

11. Brn. G. WILSON, H. B. JOHNSON, S. PEASLEY, A. M. BACON. and J. N. King were appointed a Committee on Resolutions.

12. Brn. S. PEASLEY, J. H. Cox and P. Vance, were appointed a Committee on the next session of the Association.

13. Voted, that the hours of meeting during the session, be as follows: Meet at 9 A. M., adjourn at 12 ; meet at 2 P. M., adjourn at 4 P. M.; meet in the evening at 7:30.

14. Voted, that J. CAIRNS be our representative in the General Association of the State.

15. Voted, that J. CAIRNS, H. HOWARD and H. B. JOHNSON, be a Committee of Correspondence with the General Association.

16. Voted, that any member of this Association having his name

in the minutes, and being present at the meeting of any other Association in correspondence with us, or at the meeting of the General Association, be authorized to act there as our delegate.

17. Voted, that the Clerk attend to the preparation of a Digest of the letters of the churches, and to printing the Minutes.

18. Bro. OSGOOD preached a Missionary Sermon from Acts 20 : 24 ; giving an interesting description of the Mission field, and the success of Missionary labors, after which a collection was taken for Foreign Missions, which amounted to $6 55.

Adjourned. Prayer by Bro. U. F. Doubleday.

Evening Session, 7:30 P. M.

19. Prayer by Bro. Bevans.

20. Bro. E. C. MITCHELL, of Rockford, preached a short discourse on the benefits of Sabbath Schools, and addresses were delivered by Brn. Osgood, Cairns, Bacon, and others.

21. Voted, that Bro. MITCHELL be requested to speak at this time, on "Systematic Benevolence."

Adjourned. Prayer.

Sept. 13th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

22. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Hoblit.

23. The Committee on arrangements for the next session of the Association reported as follows : That it be held with the Church at Hudson; that Bro. BACON preach the Introductory Sermon ; that S. PEASLEY be his alternate, and that Bro. Wilson write the Circular Letter.

24. Brn. T. A. Hutchins, A. Simpson, and O. J. Fisk, were appointed a Committee to examine the Circular Letter.

Said Committee reported, recommending the reception of the Letter, which was read by O. J. FISK ; adopted by the Association, and ordered to be printed in the Minutes. (See page 9.)

25. Sermon by S. PEASLEY, from I. Cor., 3, 21—23.

Adjourned. Prayer by Bro. FISK.

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2 o'clock, P. M.

27. Singing : "Rock of Ages."

28. The letter from the Towanda Church requested a reconsideration of the action of the Association in reference to certain queries propounded at the session held at Old Town in '59. Whereupon a

Committee consisting of Brn. PEASLEY, Cox, Vance, Bevan, BACON, Doubleday and JOHNSON, was appointed to consult upon the subject. After mature deliberation, said Committee brought in a report, which was discussed at considerable length, and amended by the following resolutions, which were adopted:

RESOLVED, That Baptist principle and usage, receive every brother and sister from other parts of the field, with love and christian fellowship in every religious Association.

RESOLVED, That Associations are not privileged to receive accusations from one messenger against another, and treat the accused as guilty.

RESOLVED, That all unoccupied ground is missionary ground, and free to any missionary who will occupy the same, without subjecting himself to the charge of *party-making*.

RESOLVED, That any member believing his church prejudiced against him, has a right to insist on a Council, and the church is bound to grant it.

RESOLVED, That churches refusing to call a council when desired by a member on trial, are not entitled to the respect of sister churches in said decision.

RESOLVED, That absence from church meeting is not a reason for exclusion where good reasons can be assigned for the same.

RESOLVED, That a majority have no right to coerce a member in violation of his conscience.

RESOLVED, That, when a party offers to substantiate his charge before a council, a church cannot condemn said party without giving such opportunity.

29. Brn. Fisk and Bacon were appointed a Committee on the examination of Churches applying for reception into the Association. Bro. B. F. Scriven presented a letter from the Baptist Church at Eppard's Point, asking admission. Committee reported recommending its reception, which was granted, and the hand of fellowship extended to them through Bro. Scriven, by the Moderator.

30. The Treasurer's Report was accepted. (See page 7.)

31. The Committee on Resolutions reported the following, which were adopted, viz:

RESOLVED, That Benevolence is a duty, binding upon every believer, and is essential for the purpose of cultivating spiritual life.

RESOLVED, That the Apostolic order to the Corinthian and Galatian Churches: "Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him," is still binding upon every church of Christ, and the neglect to obey it has been a serious hindrance to vital piety.

RESOLVED, That we heartily endorse the recommendation of the General Association, and pledge our influence in our several churches towards the restoration of primitive habits of Systematic Benevolence.

RESOLVED, That we will sustain our College at Upper Alton, and University at Chicago, and Almira Female College at Greenville.

RESOLVED, That The "Christian Times" and "The Macedonian," be recommended to every family of our churches, for their patronage.

RESOLVED, That Sabbath Schools have received the Divine sanction, and we urge all our churches to maintain them in their localities, and that we recommend that Friday evening of each Anniversary be devoted to their interests.

Resolved, That in the fearful contest which disturbs the peace of our nation, we recognize the chastizing hand of the Almighty, before whom we ought to humble onrselves in deep contrition, and as Christians trust not in the strength of our armies, the wisdom of our rulers, or the vastness of our national resources, but in the living God, who is our only hope.

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to stand by the Union in her present struggle to maintain the National Constitution.

Adjourned. Prayer by Bro. Patten.

Evening Session, 7:30 P. M.

Prayer by Bro. Peasley.

32. Bro Scriven preached from John 11 : 26.

33. Voted, that the thanks of the Association be tendered to the citizens of Towanda and community, for the kind hospitality which has been extended to it through the entire session.

35. Adjourned, to meet with the Baptist Church in Hudson, at 10 o'clock A. M., on the Friday before the second Sabbath in September, 1863.

J. CAIRNS, Moderator.

O. M. Colman, Clerk.

Discourses on the Sabbath were as follows: In the morning by Bro. Bacon, from Romans 13: 11; "It is high time to awake," &c. In the afternoon, by O. J. Fisk, from John 4: 35: "Say not ye there are four months," &c. In the evening, by H. B. Johnson, from I. Peter, 1: 5; "Who are kept," &c.

STATISTICS.

Churches and Clerks.	Ministers and Delegates.	Received by Baptism and Experience.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Dropped.	Died.	Total Number of Members.	For Printing Minutes.
ATLANTA	E. J. THOMAS	.....	3	2	3	...	1	121	4 00
W. H. Downey.	Samuel Bevan, James D. Hoblit.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
BLOOMINGTON	H. J. EDDY	7	13	17	...	...	4	314	5 00
O. M. Colman.	O J. FISK, U F. Doubleday, Wm. G. Thompson, O. M Colman, F. Wilson.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
CLINTON	H B JOHNSON	.....	5	2	17	...	...	48	1 50
R. R. CRANG, pro. tem		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
CHAMPAIGN	No Letter	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
EPPARD'S POINT	B. F SCRIVEN	.....	...	...	...	...	...	11	1 50
Dennis Mere.	S. Walker.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
HUDSON	J. CAIRNS	12	7	2	2	...	2	93	2 50
M. Skinner.	J. H. Cox, T. A. Hutchins, R. Roberts S. First, J. Langley,	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
LEROY	No Letter.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
LINCOLN	A. M. BACON	1	3	5	...	...	...	79	1 50
Wm. Patterson.	C. B. Hulkill.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
MT. PLEASANT	—— BISHOP, J. B. Hancock	3	...	4	...	...	...	30	1 00
F. H. Boggs.	P. Vance, J M. Skaggs.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
OLD TOWN	O. J. FISK	.....	...	3	1	...	...	42	1 20
John Cambell	Levi Howell.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
RAND'LPH'S GROVE	S. PEASLEY—No Letter	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
SALT CREEK	No Letter	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
TWO - MILE GROVE	H. B JOHNSON	.....	2	...	...	...	1	16	1 00
John L' Waddle.	A. Simpson.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
TOWANDA	J CAIRNS, G WILSON	4	3	4	...	...	1	56	2 35
Guy Campbell.	J N. King, W. L. Ballard, G. Campbell, R. J. Cunningham.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
		.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....

TREASURER'S REPORT.

WM. G. THOMPSON, **DR.**

To Cash.....$25 00

CR.

By Cash for printing Minutes of Association,.....$25 00

WM. G. THOMPSON, Treasurer.

Names of Ministers and their P. O. Address

E. J. THOMAS,.....Atlanta, Logan County.
H. J. EDDY,.....Bloomington, McLean County
O. J. FISK,.....“.....“.....“...
HOSEA HOWARD.....“.....“.....“...
H. B. JOHNSON,.....Clinton, DeWitt County.
J. CAIRNS,.....Hudson, McLean...“...
C. GARRISON,.....Lincoln, Logan...“...
A. M. BACON,.....“.....“.....“...
S. PEASLEY,.....Downs, McLean...“...
G. WILSON,.....Towanda,.....“.....“...
B. F. SCRIVEN,.....Fairbury, Livingston...“...
SAMUEL BISHOP,.....Bloomington, McLean...“...

CIRCULAR LETTER.

BY REV. O. J. FISK.

The Ministers and Messengers of the McLean Baptist Association to the several Churches they represent, send christian salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN:—

For your edification, and to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance, we call your attention, in this, our annual epistle, to the subject of Church Discipline. There is great danger in these times of spiritual declensions and national excitement, that its importance will be overlooked. Already we have reason to fear practices are tolerated in our churches which demand prompt and vigorus action. For the church to successfully accomplish her mission, there must be a oneness of sentiment and of action.

The Apostle Paul, exhorting the Ephesian Church to keep the verity of the spirit, sets before them the ground of it. "There is (says he,) one body and one spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and one Father of us all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." It is evident from this language of the Apostle, that the members of the church must be all of one mind in the faith and obedience of the Gospel. For how can they have fellowship in the truth, or love one another for its sake, if they differ about the truth itself, and are not one as to the foundation of their hope? And how can they walk together as a body in observing the commandments of the one Lord, if they are not agreed as to what he has commanded, and do not hold his laws of indispensable obligation? Societies that are not united upon the truth, are not much affected by differences about it. They speak of being one in the essentials of religion, as if the religion of Christ contained non-essentials which they may dispense with at pleasure. But if we come to particulars, it will be found that their re-union does not stand upon any determinate view or explicit agreement in what they call essentials, but upon one another's supposed sincerity or conscietiousness in their different opinons. This is the hinge of modern charity, which, instead of rejoicing in the truth, makes light of Christ's authority and pays its devotion to human pride.—As all the members are indispensably bound to love one another for the truth's sake, so to make this duty possible, none must be received in their communions but such as appear to be proper objects of this love, or have the truth dwelling in them.—Every opposite appearance in any member, must necessarily occasion pain to the rest. Christ has therefore appointed discipline in his churches for reclaiming offenders, recovering backsliders; also for expelling incorrigible offenders and manifest hypocrites. This discipline is essential to the very being of a Christian church. Wherever the faithful and impartial exercise of it is neglected, the members cannot long preserve their seperation from the world, the purity of their communions, or the fervent exercise of love for the truth's sake. Offences are either private or public, and consist either of error in sentiment, or immorality in practice. These again may be distinguished into such as admit of gradual dealing, and those which require immediate expulsion. A private offense is a trespass committed against a brother, or some irregularity falling under his notice, whereby he is grieved and

which is not publicly known to the church. In this case, the rule prescribed by our Lord, (Matt. 18—15;) must be strictly observed in the whole of the procedure. A public offense is such as is committed openly in the world, or is known to the church, in which case the first two steps of the foregoing rule will not apply. Whatever private admonitions may be given, no private satisfaction can be admitted. As all are supposed to be offended, so all require to be satisfied. No private confessions can answer that end, the affair must, in *all* cases, come before the church, and the offender be dealt with according to the third step of our Lord's rule, agreeably to the Apostolic directions. "Them that sin, rebuke before all, that others may also fear." The end of public discipline is not therefore merely to reclaim or expel the offender, but also to move others with fear, lest they should offend in like manner. If the offense consists of an error in sentiment, which affects the faith or obedience of the Gospel, all due pains must be taken for the instruction and recovery of the offender. James 5: 19: 20; 2 Tim. 2: 24: 25; But if after all, "he consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the doctrine which is according to godliness," the command is, "From such withdraw thyself." No church can long maintain the purity of Christian doctrine unless they are attentive to these directions. If the offense be immorality in practice, we must distinguish, the case of one who, through temptation, seduction or surprise, has fallen into sin, from the case of him who lives and walks in them.—With respect to the first, the Apostle says: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself lest thou also be tempted." So he is not to be immediately cut off like a hopeless, mortified member, but set to rights or into joint again, like a broken or dislocated bone. But if a member has repeatedly fallen into sins of this nature, or is living in the practice of any of them, so that his character may be determined by it, he must be immediately expelled from the communion as a wicked person, whatever repentance he may profess in words. As the discipline of Christ's house is intended to preserve the pure and unfeigned exercise of brotherly love among the members, so the whole of it ought to be conducted in love to the offender. All the admonitions and reproofs ought to be administered in love, and when he can be no longer beloved as a brother, but must be cut off as a wicked person, even that deed must be done with a view to the salvation of his soul, or "that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus;" and should it be blessed for his conviction and repentance, the church must be ready to imitate the divine mercy in forgiving, comforting and confirming their love towards him. Thus, brethren, we have made a few observations upon this copious subject. The limits of a circular forbid our enlarging You will permit us to suggest that in addition to our general obligations as Christians, there are some special relative duties which concern us as members. The exercise of brotherly love, Christian forbearance, esteem and care for one another, frequent exhortation, tender rebuke, liberally contributing to the exigencies of the church, a punctual attendance upon meetings for business or worship, the honoring and supporting of the ministry, are duties binding upon every member of the church.

And now, dearly beloved, think of these things—consider the end and importance of them. If ye know them, happy are ye if ye do them. To what profit is it for the husbandman to be acquainted with all the arts of agriculture and be furnished with all the implements of cultivation if, like the sluggard, he folds his hands and suffers his farm to be covered with thorns and briars, so our knowledge of discipline will not be of any use, except we reduce the same to practice. May the God of peace and love bless you and enable you patiently to bear his cross here, that you may wear the immortal crown.

DIGEST OF LETTERS.

ATLANTA.—Acknowledges the good providence of God through another year. While other portions of the country have been desolated, she has been permitted "to worship under her own vine and fig tree, with none to molest or make afraid." Has no Pastor, is supplied by Bro. E. J. Thomas. Midst discouragements has maintained her weekly prayer meeting. W. H. DOWNEY, Clerk.

BLOOMINGTON.—Is united and harmonious. During the year, our Pastor, Rev. H. J. Eddy, has been in the army. We have been supplied by Dr. Reed, of Alton, and Bro. Green, of Shurtleff College.—Congregations good. Some have inquired the WAY, and been pointed to the Lamb, &c. Acknowledges the chastisement through which our country is passing; believes that FAITH and WORKS should go hand in hand in this contest; that our PRAYERS and ALMS (like Cornelius,) should come up for a memorial before God; hopes to dedicate the Audience room of her church on the second Sabbath in October.

H. J. EDDY, Pastor.

CLINTON.—Complains of the low state of spirituality in her midst, but rejoices that she is yet numbered among God's people. Endeavors faithfully to maintain "the faith once delivered to saints." Is supplied one-half the time by Rev. H. B. Johnson.

H. B. JOHNSON, Pastor.

EPPARD'S POINT.—Has organized within the last year with seven members; received by baptism since, three, and by experience one; is disposed to PRAY and LABOR for the upbuilding of Zion.

B. F. SCRIVEN, Pastor.

HUDSON.—Hails with joy the return of the anniversary, and requests the Association to hold its next session with them; has been cheered within the past year with the conversion of some souls in her midst. Twelve of her members have entered the service. Two have

fallen in the triumphs of faith, and rest in hope of a "glorious immortality," a VICTORY over "the last enemy," having sought a "better country," where slavery and rebellion can never come.

J. CAIRNS, Pastor.

LINCOLN—Has had preaching but about one-half of the time during the last year. Is now supplied by Bro. A. M. Bacon. Many of her members are in the army. Maintains a weekly prayer meeting, Sabbath School, and Bible Class; acknowledges the faithfulness of God to her, and expresses strong confidence for the future, believing that the hope of the church and the nation is in him alone.

A. M. BACON, Pastor.

MT. PLEASANT.—Has been encouraged with some tokens of the divine favor; some have been brought to repentance and a saving knowledge of the truth. Has preaching one-half of the time by Bro. BISHOP. Trusts in God that these troublous times will pass away, the nation be purified, and God glorified, as "all things work together for good," &c. F. H. BOGGS, Pastor.

OLD TOWN.—Does not feel discouraged, though no particular work of grace has been wrought in her midst; are supplied by Rev. O. J. FISK one-half of the time; desires the prayers of the Association that sinners may be converted in her midst, and added to her numbers.

O. J. FISK, Pastor.

TWO MILE GROVE.—Has been without preaching most of the past year; is now supplied one-half the time by Rev. H. B. Johnson.—Peace and harmony prevail; acknowledges her low state, but looks to the Church of Christ as the light of the world. Recommends earnest prayer, that peace may be restored, our Government preserved, and its blessings perpetuated. J. L. WADDLL, Clerk.

TOWANDA.—Reports congregations large and attentive; held a protracted meeting last winter with some good result. Some of her members have volunteered. Has a Union prayer meeting and a Union Sabbath School. Is supplied by Bro. Cairns one-half of the time.—Requests the Association to reconsider its action on certain queries proposed at the Session in 1859. J. CAIRNS, Pastor.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

SEC. 1. This Association shall be called the McLEAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, and shall be composed of such regular Baptist Churches as are now members of it or may be received hereafter.

SEC. 2. This Association shall hold an annual meeting, be delegates and ministers from the Churches, who shall present letters from their several Churches, certifying their appointment, with statistics of their number. And any Church of this Associatiou which shall fail to present herself, by letter or messenger, for two annual meetings in succession, shall no longer be considered a member of this body.

SEC. 3. Each Church shall be entitled to three Messengers, and one additional for every twenty members of the Church, together with their minister.

SEC. 4. Each Church shall coutribute to defray her portion of the expenses incurred by the Association.

ARTICLE II.

SEC. 1. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer.

SEC. 2. The Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be elected annually, dy ballot.

SEC. 3. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys contributed, and enter them in a book, disburse them by order of the Association, and make a report to the Annual Meeting of the state of the treasury.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. The minutes of this Association shall be published annually for general circulation.

SEC. 2. Correspondiug delegates and visiting ministers shall be invited to a seat in the body, with liberty to speak on all subjects, but to vote on none.

SEC. 3. This Association may hold intermediate meetings, if expedient, for benevolent purposes. At such meetings no letters or publication of the proceedings will be required.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of each Church to report, at each meeting of the Association, the namees of the Ordained Ministers and Licentiates connected with them.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Association to have, each year, a list of all the Ordained Ministers and Licentiates published in the minutes of the Association, with their post office address.

SEC. 6. The time and place of holding the meetings of the Association may be fixed from time to time.

SEC 7. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the Association, by two thirds concurring; or by a majority, if referred to another meeting of the Association.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. At every sitting, business shall be opened and closed with prayer by direction of the Moderator.

2. No member of the Association shall absent himself during its session without permission of the Moderator.

3. No subject shall be discussed without a motion first made and seconded.

4. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without permission of the Moderator.

5. If any proposition or motion under discussion contain two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken on each separately.

6. The minutes of this Associatiou shall always be read and carefully corrected before the adjournment of the time.

7. The Moderator may speak on any subject, provided he call some member to fill the chair during the time.

8. Any person, about to speak,shall arise and address the Moderator, and confine his remarks to the subject under consideration.

9. These rules shall be distinctly read by the Chair, immediately after the organization of the body.

10. Any member who shall willingly and knowingly break any of these rules, shall be dealt with as the body may think proper.

11. All motions made and seconded shall be taken up, unless objected to, on which the voice of the Association shall be taken.

THE M'LEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE,

Will meet in the Baptist Church in Hudson, on the Wednesday evening preceding the meeting of the Association, 1863.

Sermon by E. J. Thomas.

On Thursday, Essays as follows:

G. Wilson, John 15: 2,

S. Peasley, Daniel 2: 44; "The Kingdom."

A. M. Bacon, Matthew 16: 18.

J. Cairns, Proverbs 22: 6. "Training Children."

H. B. Johnson, Exegisis, Heb., 6: 4—6.

O. J. Fisk, Eph., 4: 5.

B. F. Scriven, What is the Scriptural position of the body in Prayer?

OFFICERS.

J. Cairns,.....Moderator.

O. M. Colman,.....Clerk.

H. B. Johnson,.....Assistant Clerk.

Wm. G. Thompson,.....Treasurer.

Will meet with the Church in Hudson, on Friday, before the second Sabbath in September, 1863, at 10 o'clock, A. M.